

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1115

To amend the Goals 2000: Educate America Act to restore opportunity-to-learn standards.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 18, 1997

Mr. OWENS (for himself, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mrs. MINK of Hawaii, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. FORD, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. SCOTT, Ms. NORTON, Mr. FROST, Ms. LOFGREN, and Ms. CHRISTIAN-GREEN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To amend the Goals 2000: Educate America Act to restore opportunity-to-learn standards.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Opportunity-to-Learn
5 Standards Implementation Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. GOALS 2000: EDUCATE AMERICA ACT.**

7 (a) REFERENCES.—Except as otherwise expressly
8 provided, whenever in this section an amendment or repeal
9 is expressed in terms of an amendment to, or repeal of,

1 a title, chapter, part, subpart, section, subsection, or other
 2 provision, the reference shall be considered to be made to
 3 a title, chapter, part, subpart, section, subsection, or other
 4 provision of the Goals 2000: Educate America Act (20
 5 U.S.C. 5801 et seq.).

6 (b) OPPORTUNITY-TO-LEARN DEVELOPMENT
 7 GRANT.—The Act is amended—

8 (1) by redesignating parts B and C as parts C
 9 and D, respectively; and

10 (2) by inserting after part A the following:

11 **“PART B—OPPORTUNITY-TO-LEARN**

12 **DEVELOPMENT GRANT**

13 **“SEC. 211. OPPORTUNITY-TO-LEARN DEVELOPMENT**
 14 **GRANT.**

15 **“(a) OPPORTUNITY-TO-LEARN DEVELOPMENT**
 16 **GRANTS.—**

17 **“(1) IN GENERAL.—**The Secretary is authorized
 18 to award more than one grant, on a competitive
 19 basis, to consortia of individuals and organizations
 20 to develop voluntary national opportunity-to-learn
 21 standards, and to develop a listing of model pro-
 22 grams for use, on a voluntary basis, by States, which
 23 standards and listing may be used to—

24 **“(A)** provide all students with an oppor-
 25 tunity to learn;

1 “(B) assess the capacity and performance
2 of individual schools; and

3 “(C) develop appropriate actions to be
4 taken in the event that the schools fail to
5 achieve such standards.

6 “(2) COMPOSITION OF CONSORTIA.—To the ex-
7 tent possible, each consortium shall include the par-
8 ticipation of—

9 “(A) State-level policymakers, such as Gov-
10 ernors, State legislators, chief State school offi-
11 cers, and State school board members;

12 “(B) local policymakers and administra-
13 tors, such as local school board members, su-
14 perintendents, and principals;

15 “(C) teachers (especially teachers involved
16 in the development of content standards) and
17 related services personnel;

18 “(D) parents and individuals with experi-
19 ence in promoting parental involvement in edu-
20 cation;

21 “(E) representatives of business;

22 “(F) experts in vocational-technical edu-
23 cation;

24 “(G) representatives of regional accrediting
25 associations;

1 “(H) individuals with expertise in school fi-
2 nance and equity, the education of at-risk stu-
3 dents, and the preparation and training of
4 teachers and school administrators;

5 “(I) curriculum and school reform experts;

6 “(J) representatives of advocacy groups,
7 including student and civil rights advocacy
8 groups;

9 “(K) representatives of higher education;
10 and

11 “(L) secondary school students.

12 “(3) DUTIES OF CONSORTIA.—In developing
13 voluntary national opportunity-to-learn standards,
14 each consortium shall—

15 “(A) draw upon current research about
16 student achievement and the necessary condi-
17 tions for effective teaching and learning; and

18 “(B) provide for the development of more
19 than one draft of standards which incorporate
20 the comments and recommendations of edu-
21 cators and other knowledgeable individuals
22 across the Nation.

23 “(4) EXPERTISE OR BACKGROUND.—One-third
24 of the members of each consortium shall consist of
25 individuals with expertise or background in the edu-

1 cational needs and assessment of children who are
2 from low-income families, are from minority back-
3 grounds, have limited-English proficiency, or have
4 disabilities.

5 “(5) GEOGRAPHIC REPRESENTATION.—The
6 membership of each consortium shall be geographi-
7 cally representative and reflect the racial, ethnic,
8 and gender diversity of the United States.

9 “(b) APPLICATIONS.—Each consortium that desires
10 to receive a grant under this subsection shall submit an
11 application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner,
12 and containing such information and assurances as the
13 Secretary may require.

14 “(c) REPORT.—After the development of the vol-
15 untary national opportunity-to-learn standards, each con-
16 sortium receiving assistance under this section shall sub-
17 mit a report to the Secretary which discusses the back-
18 ground, important issues, and rationale regarding such
19 standards.

20 “(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
21 are authorized to be appropriated \$2,000,000 for fiscal
22 year 1998 and such sums as may be necessary for each
23 of the fiscal years 1999 through 2002, to carry out this
24 section.”.

1 (c) DEFINITIONS.—Section 3(a) of the Act is amend-
2 ed—

3 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (7) through
4 (13) as paragraphs (8) through (14), respectively;

5 (2) by inserting after paragraph (6) the follow-
6 ing:

7 “(7) the term ‘opportunity-to-learn standards’
8 means the criteria for, and the basis of, assessing
9 the sufficiency or quality of the resources, practices,
10 and conditions necessary at each level of the edu-
11 cation system (schools, local educational agencies,
12 and States) to provide all students with an oppor-
13 tunity to learn the material in voluntary national
14 content standards or State content standards.”.

15 (d) NATIONAL EDUCATION GOALS PANEL.—Section
16 202(j) of the Act is amended by striking “or student per-
17 formances” and inserting “, student performance, or op-
18 portunity-to-learn”.

19 (e) DUTIES OF THE GOALS PANEL.—Section 203 of
20 the Act is amended by striking paragraph (2) and insert-
21 ing the following:

22 “(2) report on State opportunity-to-learn stand-
23 ards and strategies and the progress of States that
24 are implementing such standards and strategies to

1 help all students meet State content standards and
2 State student performance standards.”.

3 (f) POWERS OF THE GOALS PANEL.—Section
4 204(a)(2) of the Act is amended by inserting “voluntary
5 national opportunity-to-learn standards,” before “and
6 State assessments.”.

7 (g) STATE IMPROVEMENT PLANS.—Section 306 of
8 the Act is amended—

9 (1) by inserting after subsection (c) the follow-
10 ing:

11 “(d) OPPORTUNITY-TO-LEARN STANDARDS AND
12 STRATEGIES.—

13 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Each State improvement
14 plan shall establish standards or strategies for pro-
15 viding all students with an opportunity to learn.
16 Such standards or strategies shall include such fac-
17 tors as the State deems appropriate to ensure that
18 all students receive a fair opportunity to achieve the
19 knowledge and skills as described in State content
20 standards and State student performance standards
21 adopted by the State.

22 “(2) IMPLEMENTATION.—Notwithstanding any
23 other provision of this Act, the implementation of
24 opportunity-to-learn standards or strategies shall be

1 voluntary on the part of the States, local educational
2 agencies, and schools.

3 “(3) CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section
4 shall be construed to—

5 “(A) mandate equalized spending per pupil
6 for a State, local educational agency, or school;
7 or

8 “(B) mandate national school building
9 standards for a State, local educational agency,
10 or school.”; and

11 (2) in subsection (e), by inserting “State oppor-
12 tunity-to-learn standards or strategies,” before “and
13 State assessments.”.

14 (h) STATE USES OF FUNDS.—Section 308(b)(2)(A)
15 of the Act is amended by inserting “State opportunity-
16 to-learn standards,” before “and State assessments”.

17 (i) ASSISTANCE TO OUTLYING AREAS AND SEC-
18 RETARY OF INTERIOR.—Section 315(b) of the Act is
19 amended—

20 (1) in paragraph (1)(C) by inserting “, includ-
21 ing the requirements for timetables for opportunity-
22 to-learn standards,” after “improvement plans”;

23 (2) by amending paragraph (2) to read as fol-
24 lows:

1 “(2) PLAN SPECIFICS.—The reform and im-
2 provement plan shall include, in addition to the re-
3 quirements described above, specific provisions for—

4 “(A) opportunity-to-learn standards per-
5 taining to residential programs and transpor-
6 tation costs associated with programs located
7 on or near reservations or serving students in
8 off-reservation residential boarding schools;

9 “(B) review and incorporation of the Na-
10 tional Education Goals and the voluntary na-
11 tional content standards, voluntary national
12 student performance standards, and voluntary
13 national opportunity-to-learn standards, pro-
14 vided that such review shall include the issues
15 of cultural and language differences; and”.

16 (3) in subsection (c)(1)(A) by inserting “and to
17 provide a framework for the implementation of op-
18 portunity-to-learn standards or strategies” before
19 the period.

20 (j) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 90 days after the
21 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Edu-
22 cation shall promulgate regulations or guidelines regard-
23 ing the implementation of opportunity-to-learn standards.

1 **SEC. 3. ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION.**

2 The amendments made to the Elementary and Sec-
3 ondary Education Act of 1965 paragraphs (1) through (4)
4 of section 702(b) of Public Law 104–134, shall be restored
5 or revised as if such provision in Public Law 104–134 had
6 not been enacted.

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